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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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HIGH SCHOOL

Website Quicklist

Please remind students of online sites that will be useful when deciding on schools to apply to and education funding options.

Alabama Student Loan Program
www.alstudentaid.com

Alabama College Loan Program
www.alstudentaid.com

The Student Loan People
www.studentloanpeople.com

Alabama Mentor
www.alabamamentor.org

Alabama Commission on
Higher Education
www.ache.state.al.us

The Alabama College System
www.acs.cc.al.us

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov

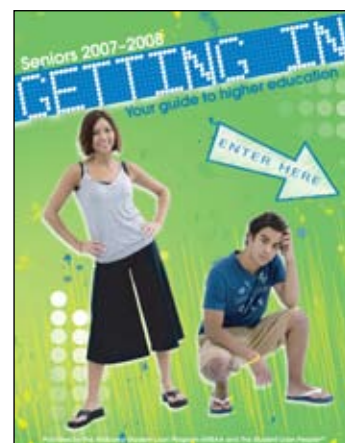
Free Application for
Federal Student Aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov

If your school's website isn't linked to ours, please ask your technology coordinator to set up a link to the Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA.

What's new?

The eleventh edition of *Getting In* will soon be arriving from The Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA. The latest version offers a financial aid checklist, an admissions checklist and a detachable planning calendar for seniors.

This publication is being sent directly to you for distribution to all seniors. Let us know if you need additional copies.



Also, the fifth edition of *Affording Higher Education* will soon be arriving from The Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA. This publication has the most up-to-date information regarding loans, grants and scholarships available to Alabama students. Included are listings of financial aid sources from organizations, companies, schools and the state and federal government.

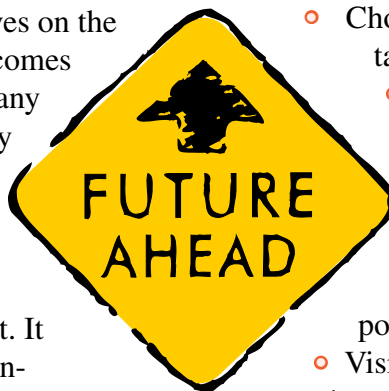
Copies of *Affording Higher Education* are not distributed to students but will be available at high school and public libraries, financial aid offices and high school counselor offices.



If you need additional copies of either of these publications, you should contact Tonya Sexton at the Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA address or number on the front page. These publications will also be available on www.alstudentaid.com

Live for Today, Prepare for Tomorrow

High school students pride themselves on the ability to live for the moment. When it comes to planning for life after high school, many students become overwhelmed. Not only will the decision they make affect their entire life, but there are also outside pressures from family and friends. Many students find the easiest way to handle a stressful situation is to ignore it. It is important to make the college decision-making process as stress-free as possible to ensure that students make the decision that will best serve them in the future. The Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA offers the following tips to remind students to:



- Choose a major that corresponds with their talents and interests.
- Do research to find what schools have the best programs for a particular major.
- Narrow school choices by setting criteria for each school to meet, such as location, average class size and/or school population.
- Visit the school's campus while classes are in session to give the student a preview of what life would be like should the student decide to attend.
- Remember that the decision is theirs. Higher education is a stepping-stone to the future. Ask friends and family for advice, but make the final decision based on their preference.

Get online

Don't forget to visit alabamamentor.org, an online higher education resource for students and counselors. Track your students as they use the website to research and apply to colleges and universities. Through alabamamentor.org, you can also send reminders to individuals or groups about upcoming testing dates, college fairs and orientations.



Checklist for College-Bound Seniors

You might want to pass this information to your seniors. It will help them stay on track in their college preparation.

October

- ☐ Review admissions applications; begin writing essays.
- ☐ Meet with college admissions representatives or schedule visits to schools you are interested in attending. Talk with students and staff.
- ☐ Register for December ACT and/or SAT.
- ☐ Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- ☐ Request recommendations from teachers, employers and guidance counselors.
- ☐ If applying for Early Decision, send in application.

November

- ☐ If you haven't already, register for the December ACT and/or SAT.
- ☐ Watch for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available from your high school counselor, financial aid office of the school you plan to attend or at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ☐ Continue to work on application essays.
- ☐ Begin preparing your college application.
- ☐ Watch scholarship deadlines.

December

- ☐ Register for January SAT and/or February ACT.
- ☐ Finalize application essays and complete the admissions procedures for your top school choices.
- ☐ Remind your references of application deadlines. Send thank you notes to these people.
- ☐ Mail all applications or turn them in to your high school, depending on the system your school uses.
- ☐ Keep copies of all admissions applications.